

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0023] with the following amended paragraph:

[0023] As discussed previously, and with reference to Figs. 1-4, the present invention provides a coupling 1 for connecting a driving machine part and a driven machine part, e.g., shafts, wheel hubs or the like, comprising an intermediate shaft 4 and articulated lever couplings 5 provided at the ends of the intermediate shaft. Each coupling has at least three identical articulated levers 9, engaging via elastic joints 10 situated at their ends with the intermediate shaft 4 and with the adjacent machine part which is to be connected. The axes (21) of the elastic joints (10) of each articulated lever (9) are perpendicular to an axial plane (22, 23) which is parallel to the articulated levers (9) and passes through the axis (8) of the intermediate shaft (4) and the axes (6, 7) of the machine parts (2, 3) that are to be connected.

[0024] With the novel coupling, the axes of the elastic joints 10 of each articulated lever 9 are aligned perpendicularly to an axial plane 23 parallel to the articulated levers 9, which includes the axis 8 of the intermediate shaft 4 and the axes 6, 7 of the shafts to be connected 2, 3. This configuration of the joints 10 results in deformation of the elastomer bearing which is attributable primarily to torsion. This homogeneous deformation is tolerated better by the bearing. Only a very small portion of the deflection is cardanic. The bearing elements used may be optimized better to radial loads. Their spherical design may have larger radii; in the extreme case, cylindrical elements are used.

[0025] The articulated jointed levers are configured in a star pattern. The axes 21 of the joints 10 of each articulated lever 9 are parallel. The preferred number of articulated levers used is four, as shown in Fig. 1. In this case the axial plane 23 may pass through the center of the two opposite articulated levers 9. Such a possibility also exists when using six articulated levers, as shown in Fig. 4.

[0026] The axes of an articulated lever coupling 5 are aligned so that they come to lie in a radial plane. Therefore, the intermediate shaft 4 and the shafts to be joined 2, 3 are equipped with connecting flanges 12, 14 having radially and axially protruding claws 15, 16, 35. These claws

support the bearing journals 11 for the joints 10. The bearing journals 11 may be integrally joined to the bearings 17, 17a or manufactured separately and mounted on the claws 15, 16, 35.

In a number of applications it is advantageous if the bearing journals 13 have a conical shape having a non-blocking conical seating. This facilitates dismantling.

[0027] The joints may be equipped with spherical bearings 17a. However, it is advantageous if at least one joint is equipped with an articulated lever 9 having a cylindrical bearing 17. The cylindrical bearing allows greater forces to be transmitted. The elastomer layer 20 of the bearing 17 is preferably bonded to the adjacent metal parts by vulcanization.